

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: THE CARTER PRESIDENCY

1. LEAD EDITORIAL IN THE APRIL 19 OTTAWA JOURNAL
"SURVEYING THE WRECKAGE" NOTES THAT IN HIS 16TH MONTH AS
PRESIDENT, "MR CARTER IS FINDING IT ISN'T AS EASY
AS HE THOUGHT IT TO BE WHEN TALKING TO VOTERS IN 1976."
THE JOURNAL QUOTES THE LATEST STORY OF TWO SENATORS WHO
MEET: "CARTER IS BEGINNING TO LOOK LIKE A ONE-TERM
PRESIDENT," SAYS THE FIRST SENATOR. "YES," REPLIES THE
OTHER, "BUT WHEN DOES IT START?"

2. AFTER REVIEWING PRESIDENT CARTER'S PROBLEMS IN THE
MIDDLE EAST AND RHODESIA AS WELL AS HIS DIFFICULTIES WITH
CONGRESS IN AREAS SUCH AS THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY AND
ENERGY BILL, THE JOURNAL EDITORIAL MAINTAINS THAT "...MR
CARTER PRESIDES OVER A RECESSION OF PUBLIC SPIRIT, AN ERA
OF CARPING: ONE IN WHICH HE IS BLAMED NOT ONLY FOR WHAT
HE HAS DONE WRONG, BUT FOR THE FAULTS OF CONGRESS ALSO.
SO WHAT HAS CONGRESS DONE TO HELP COMBAT INFLATION, ON
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BEHALF OF TAX REFORM OR TO CORRECT URBAN BLIGHT? NEXT TO
NOTHING, OF COURSE."

3. THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES THAT "IT'S HARD ENOUGH FOR
ANYONE TO UNDERSTAND THEIR OWN NATION'S POLITICS, LET
ALONE UNDERSTANDING THE POLITICS OF ANOTHER NATION. YET
THE POLITICS OF THE UNITED STATES HAVE SUCH INFLUENCE ON

CANADA THAT WE ARE BOUND TO WATCH THEM WITH FASCINATION,
WHEN NOT WITH APPREHENSION. ONE MIGHT BE WISE TO GIVE
MR CARTER FAVORABLE LEEWAY WHEN PASSING JUDGMENT, AS YET.
HIS PRESIDENCY IS ONLY, AFTER ALL, BEGINNING." HESS

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